

and protecting American interests. We are a free nation because of our brave. It always has been a favorite moment for me to nominate qualified young men and women to attend our military academies. General Emery Upton was in the West Point class with George Custer and later served as Commandant. His statue is on Little Round Top in Gettysburg. And my 98-year-old dad served in World War II, including the Battle of the Bulge.

Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL called the enactment of 21st Century Cures the most important legislative achievement in that Congress when President Obama signed it into law in December 2016. I led a 3-year effort as chair of the Energy & Commerce Committee to pass this legislation, which expedites the FDA approvals of drugs and devices and was coupled with \$45 billion in additional health research funding. We literally held dozens of round table discussions, hearings, meetings with disease groups, the FDA, National Institutes of Health (NIH), pharmaceutical companies, and research institutions like the University of Michigan, MD Anderson, Mayo Clinic, Harvard, and the Milken Institute. Fast forward 4 years to COVID. Pfizer's CEO told his folks that they would spend "whatever it takes" to find a vaccine and thankfully were successful. Cures allowed them to produce the vaccine prior to the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and be able to deliver it across the country the very next day after receiving the EUA in December of 2020. This was probably 6–8 months earlier than would have happened without our legislation, saving hundreds of thousands American lives. Then Vice President Joe Biden played a pivotal hands-on role, and we included the \$1 billion Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot initiative as part of this bill. One of our great sources was Nobel Prize winner immunologist Jim Allison whose breakthroughs have been the answer to thousands.

The terrible events of January 6 continue to dominate the news nearly two years later, including this week's release of the final committee report. That morning, I walked through the House floor back to my Rayburn office where I watched many of the protesters parading under my balcony to the White House grounds. I then watched the President's speech to the crowd on TV before they came back to the Capitol and certainly attempted to violently disrupt the counting of the electoral votes cast by each state. I saw the gallows on the Capitol lawn intended for Mike Pence, and thanked some of the SWAT team members laying exhausted in the Rotunda. Chilling. Michigan was one of the 4 states that was going to be challenged despite the 154,000-vote difference. To date, there is still no credible evidence that our vote was fraudulent. I voted absentee in that election, as I did this last November 8, and I am confident that our system works. Under the law established in the 1800s, it only takes 1 Member from the House and Senate to force the full House and Senate to reconsider. This week the House and Senate adopted a legislative change requiring a minimum of 20 percent of each body to challenge a states' certified count. In my estimation we avoided a massacre of my colleagues on the House floor by only 10–15 minutes. Trump's later statement that he did everything "totally appropriate" was a key factor for my impeachment vote a week later and my support for a bipartisan January 6 con-

gressional commission. In my view, the commission's unanimous support for their report issued this week prevented the facts from being swept under the rug and helped ensure preservation of the peaceful transfer of presidential power.

More than a 1,000 folks provided testimony to get the truth that otherwise never would have been told. Where were these same souls who knew the intimate story when we debated impeachment? Crickets.

One regret I will share was the failure of the Super Committee a dozen years ago to deal with the deficit. It had 6 members of the House and Senate: 6 Republicans and 6 Democrats. The rule was that we had to get 7 votes, and we could never get more than 6 as it turned out. We spent a couple months negotiating different alternatives but could never quite get there. I was one of the "aye" votes with fellow Michigan colleague and Chair of the House Ways & Means Committee Dave Camp, but we were 1 vote short. The looming budget deficit remains a threat that most certainly future leaders must address.

My last 2 days in Congress were action packed. On Wednesday evening, I attended a joint session of Congress in which we heard from the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Earlier this year, I had a chance to listen as Zelenskyy addressed the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus by Zoom. It was encouraging to now see him in person as he makes the compelling case for Ukraine directly to the American people and their representatives. I have had the opportunity during my career to watch presidential national addresses and world leaders speak to the Congress such as Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth, the Pope, and others from around the globe. I was especially proud to listen to President Zelenskyy on one of my very last days serving in the U.S. Congress.

The House and Senate cleared a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill to keep the government open and funded through the 2023 fiscal year. I voted for the package, funding a number of priorities, including a 10-percent increase in defense spending to \$858 billion. The bill also includes \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency, that like its defense counterpart, will fund cutting-edge research that has the potential to save millions of lives. This is the next step for 21st Century Cures. The bill also includes \$45 billion to help Ukraine defend its freedom and citizens against Russia's brutal invasion, including barbaric attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

I supported Congress acting this year because it avoids the risk of a government shut-down to start the New Year, given the narrow majorities in the House and Senate. A shut-down would threaten America's security and cause disruption to vital domestic programs, including those that help improve health outcomes in our nation. It clears the deck for the next Congress to start fresh on FY '24 rather than mop up unfinished business 4 months into FY '23.

On a closing note, I leave you with the words of a brave young woman:

"How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."—Anne Frank

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 LORDS AND LADIES OF FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia, the Lords and Ladies of Fairfax.

Every year, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from his or her district who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other exceptional commitments and contributions to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, approximately 720 individuals have earned the honor of being named a Lord or Lady Fairfax by his or her representative on the Board of Supervisors.

This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will recognize those individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments of the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and are worthy of our praise and sincere appreciation.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2022 Lords and Ladies Fairfax:

At-Large: Lady Nelfred Tilly Blanding and Lord Robert Pizzano, Jr.

Braddock District: Lady Diane Hoffman and Lord Jim Hickey

Dranesville District: Lady Lisa Merkel and Lord Steven Bloom

Hunter Mill District: Lady Raba Alwan Letteri and Lord Kurt Rose

Franconia District: Lady Juana Cruz and Lord Edward D. Joseph

Mason District: Lady Honorable Penney Azcarate and Lord Eduardo "Eddy" Azcarate

Mount Vernon District: Lady Maria Severa Pangelinan and Lord Jeff Gauger

Providence District: Lady Robbie Snow and Lord Rafael L. Marin

Springfield District: Lady Caroline Sieber and Lord Sam Gray

Sully District: Lady Malini Puli and Lord Sekhar Puli

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and expressing our gratitude to these men and women who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of our community. Their efforts, which are deserving of our highest praise, provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow residents and serve as a reminder of why Fairfax County remains such a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING NICOLE DAMASCO FOR HER DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my Chief of Staff, Nicole Damasco, for her outstanding commitment and dedication to serving California's 9th Congressional District, the former